



HAMILTON COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

208 Courthouse  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

JIM M. COPPINGER  
County Mayor

July 21, 2011

Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Honorable Genachowski:

I am writing to you as the Mayor of Hamilton County, Tennessee, our community is located in the Eastern section of Tennessee near the Northwest Georgia border, for the purpose of requesting your understanding and support of a pending broadband, long-term evolution (LTE) waiver application submitted by the Tennessee Valley Regional Communications System (TVRCS) in March, 2011. The TVRCS is an interoperable communications consortium formed by the governments of thirteen (13) Tennessee and Georgia local governments.

We recognize the ongoing efforts of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in support of public safety communications under your leadership. We applaud the FCC's National Broadband (NBP), which makes great strides towards addressing public safety's needs. We are pleased with the FCC's establishment of the Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC), which will facilitate attaining NBP goals.

We respectfully seek your attention to several important and urgent items pending before the Commission, and request your support in resolving them as quickly as possible.

- The TVRCS waiver request, if granted, would allow early deployment of public safety wireless broadband networks in areas of the nation that were recently hit with devastating tornados (both in Tennessee and Northwest Georgia on April 27).
- The current TVRCS-managed, P25 Regional System provides mission crucial voice communications, but lacks necessary broadband capabilities essential to meeting the totality of public safety communications requirements. Currently our equipment is state of the art and the TVRCS is used as a model for our State and surrounding area, and we seek to attain the next level of secured communications.

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- It is urgent that we seek to upgrade our first responder's communications systems.
- We were encouraged that the Commission released pending waivers for comment (in November, 2010). We were further encouraged that support was strong for waiver approvals. Unfortunately, the FCC has not yet granted our waiver.
- We note that the Commission approved 21 waiver requests in 2010. There are no material differences between the approved requests and ours (TVRCS).

The TVRCS has plans ready to procure the first phase of our 700Hz wireless broadband network. We respectfully urge the Commission to approve our waiver request. We understand there are funding concerns and reference the NBP's promotion of public-private partnerships and the leveraging of commercial carrier infrastructures. These alternative models may not result in total network build-outs, but they may pave the way for comprehensive network build-outs, once federal funding has been provided. We are designing our network plans consistent with NBP. We desire to start to strengthen our public safety broadband communications systems in this calendar year.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of improved public safety communications. With your help, and the timely response of the Commission, we will succeed at building better networks that can be counted on to protect our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jim M. Coppinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Coppinger" clearly legible.

Jim M. Coppinger  
County Mayor

cc: FCC Commissioners  
FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau